

October 11, 2010 For Immediate Release

Two deputies with the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office DUI Team, Cpl. Lonnie Mizzell and Cpl. James Elrod, recently completed an intense two weeks course on Drug Recognition that started at the Criminal Justice Academy in Columbia, S.C. and ended its final stage in the state of Arizona.

The two deputies along with 15 other officers from around the state of South Carolina and Georgia were selected out of many to attend the demanding, yet prestigious class. The two officers presently work off of the state DUI grant that was awarded to the Sheriff's Office in November 2009 through the SCDPS (South Carolina Department of Public Safety), Alcohol Countermeasures.

Since the implementation of the H.E.A.T.(Highway Enforcement of Aggressive Traffic)- Team, the county has seen a dramatic decrease in the number of fatalities in the county, and with the advanced training received by the two officers, it will further enhance their ability to detect and arrest impaired motorist.

The year 2009 registered 38 fatalities in the county that were associated with an impaired motorist, and since the DUI-Team's aggressive approach to impaired drivers, the county has only experienced 3 DUI death leading up to the month of August of 2010.

Sheriff Dewitt would like to stress to the citizens of Berkeley County to 'Buckle-Up', 'Choose or Loose', don't drink and drive. The first 100 deadly days of summer are still upon us and safety is paramount to all citizens and visitors alike.

For more Information contact:
Dan Moon
Public Information Officer
Berkeley County Sheriff's Office
223 N. Live Oak Dr.
Moncks Corner, SC 29461
Charleston 843-723-3800 Ext 4668
Moncks Corner 843-719-4668

wdmoon@co.berkelev.sc.us